UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

for the

Western District of Washington

	In the Matter of the Sea	irch of)					
	(Briefly describe the property to or identify the person by name a	be searched	Ś					
	Residence Located)	Case No.	MJ21-309			
200	0 Northeast 16th Street, Rente		}					
	More Fully Described in Att)					
	APPLICATION FOR A SEARCH WARRANT							
I, a federal law enforcement officer or an attorney for the government, request a search warrant and state under penalty of perjury that I have reason to believe that on the following person or property (identify the person or describe the property to be searched and give its location): A Residence, more fully described in Attachment A, incorporated herein by reference.								
ocated		District of	Washin	gton	, there is now concealed (identify the			
oerson or	describe the property to be seize	ed):						
See At	tachment B, attached hereto a	nd incorporated herein by	reference.					
	The basis for the search ur	nder Fed. R. Crim. P. 41	l(c) is (che	ck one or more):				
	vidence of a crim	ie;						
		of crime, or other items	sillegally	possessed;				
	☐ property designed	for use, intended for us	se, or used	in committing	g a crime;			
	☐ a person to be arre	ested or a person who is	unlawfull	y restrained.				
	The search is related to a v	violation of:						
	Code Section			Offense Des	cription			
				onspiracy with	Intent to Distribute Controlled Substance ibution of Controlled Substances			
	The application is based o	n these facts:						
	100 miles		der, attache	d hereto and inc	corporatated herein by reference.			
	Delayed notice of under 18 U.S.C. § 31	days (give exact en 03a, the basis of which						
Pursu	ant to Fed. R. Crim. P. 4.1, th	is warrant is presented:	by reliab	ole electronic m	telephonically recorded.			
				CASEVICA	NYDER, Special Agent, USPS OIG			
			:		Printed name and title			
	e foregoing affidavit was swo				going affidavit by telephone.			
_				1				
Date:	05/26/2021				Judge's signature			
Titu ar	d state: Seattle Washington		pi	RIAN A TSUC	CHIDA, United States Magistrate Judge			
ony and	d state: Seattle, Washington				Printed name and title			

USAO: 2021R00039

AFFIDAVIT OF CASEY J. SNYDER			
STATE OF WASHINGTON)			
) ss			
COUNTY OF KING)			
I, Casey J. Snyder, being first duly sworn on oath, hereby depose and say:			
INTRODUCTION			
1. Affiant Background. I am a Special Agent with the United States Postal			
Service Office of Inspector General ("USPS-OIG"), assigned to the Seattle Field Office.			
I have been a Special Agent with the USPS-OIG since February of 2012. I am authorized			
to enforce the laws of the United States and to investigate crimes committed against the			
U.S. Postal Service or by U.S. Postal Service employees. Prior to joining the USPS-OIG,			
I was a Special Agent with the Air Force Office of Special Investigations (AFOSI) for			
approximately four years. I received my initial training at the Federal Law Enforcement			
Training Center (FLETC), in Glynco, Georgia. I was trained in various investigative			
methods such as interviewing and interrogation, surveillance, search and seizure, the			
identification of various types of controlled substances by sight and odor, the way in			
which controlled substances are packaged, marketed, and consumed, and the effects of			
various controlled substances on human physiology. I have conducted numerous			
narcotics investigations involving the manufacturing, possession, and distribution of			
controlled substances.			
2. Duties, Training & Experience. As part of my duties, I investigate the			
use of the U.S. mails to illegally mail and receive controlled substances, the proceeds of			
drug trafficking, as well as other instrumentalities associated with drug trafficking, in			
violation of Title 21, United States Code, Sections 841(a)(1) (distribution and possession			
with intent to distribute controlled substances), 843(b) (unlawful use of a communication			
facility, including the U.S. mails, to facilitate the distribution of controlled substances and			
proceeds from the sale thereof), and 846 (controlled substances conspiracy). As set forth			

below, my training and experience includes identifying parcels with characteristics indicative of criminal activity. During my employment with the USPS-OIG, I have participated in many criminal investigations involving suspicious parcels and controlled substances.

INTRODUCTION AND PURPOSE OF AFFIDAVIT

3. This affidavit is submitted in support of an application for search warrants for the following location, person, and vehicle:

- (a) 2000 Northeast 16th Street, Renton, Washington, 98056 (Herein referred to as the "SUBJECT PREMISES"), further described in Attachment A, which is incorporated herein by reference.
- 4. For the **SUBJECT PREMISES**, authority to search extends to all parts of the property, including main structure, garage(s), storage structures, outbuildings, and curtilage, and all vehicles, containers, compartments, or safes located on the property, whether locked or not, where the items described in Attachment B (items to be seized) could be found.
- 5. As set forth below, there is probable cause to believe that the **SUBJECT PREMISES**, will contain or possess evidence, fruits, and instrumentalities of possession of controlled substances with intent to distribute, and distribution of controlled substances, in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Section 841(a). I seek authorization to search and seize the items specified in Attachment B, which is incorporated herein by reference.
- 6. The information contained in this affidavit is based upon knowledge I gained from my investigation, my personal observations, my training and experience, and investigation by other law enforcement officers. Because this affidavit is being submitted for the limited purpose of securing a search warrant, I have not included every fact of which I am aware pertaining to the investigation. I have set forth only those facts that I believe are relevant to determination of probable cause to support the issuance of the

requested warrants. When the statements of others are set forth in this affidavit, they are set forth in substance and in part.

THE INVESTIGATION

- 7. In November of 2020, investigators with the United States Postal Inspection Service (USPIS) identified multiple parcels being mailed from various locations to Bellevue, Washington. The parcel were Express Mail parcels, paid in cash, and primarily destined to the same Postal Service delivery route. The delivery route was identified as route 83, in Bellevue, Washington. Postal Service records indicated this route was normally delivered by TRI HIEN DUONG. Evidence indicates that DUONG, a Postal Service employee, is using his position with the USPS to traffic controlled substances and/or the proceeds from the sale of controlled substances. The investigation has shown DUONG is receiving parcels on his delivery route, which contain United States currency. He takes these parcels to his home address or other locations instead of delivering them.
- 8. The parcels appeared to be destined to true and deliverable addresses, but to names which did not associate to those addresses. Furthermore, the parcels are regularly mailed from the same city and state, such as Oak Grove, Kentucky; Clarksville, Tennessee; and Atlanta, Georgia. With few exceptions, the Express Mail parcels only arrive on days when DUONG is on duty and delivers mail on route 83.
- 9. Postal Service records show DUONG's address as 16004 Lake Hills Boulevard, Bellevue, Washington, 98008. Physical surveillance and law enforcement records show DUONG resides at 15103 Southeast Newport Way, Bellevue, Washington, 98006. On January 13, 2021, investigators obtained a federal warrant to track DUONG's personal vehicle, a red, Acura RDX, bearing Washington license plate BWP2727 (Herein referred to as DUONG's red Acura). Data from the tracker affixed to the DUONG's red Acura, combined with physical surveillance, has confirmed DUONG's residence to be 15103 Southeast Newport Way, Bellevue, Washington.

- 10. According to law enforcement records, DUONG is 33 years old, with a prior Washington State conviction for Possession of Controlled Substances with no Prescription (2019). DUONG also had an arrest in 2017 which appeared not to have led to a conviction, for Possession of a Controlled Substance with no Prescription.
- 11. On December 11, 2020, investigators executed a federal search warrant on Express Mail parcel EJ253292487US, which was mailed from Cadiz, Kentucky to Duong T, 16004 Lake Hills Boulevard, Bellevue, Washington 98008. In obtaining probable cause to search the parcel, investigators utilized a narcotics detection canine, who alerted to the presence of controlled substances, in or on the parcel. This parcel contained \$52,000 in United States currency.
- 12. On December 31, 2020, investigators conducted surveillance on DUONG. Postal Service records indicated two Express Mail parcels, similar to the parcels described above, were intended for DUONG's delivery route; however, they did not arrive to be delivered. Postal Service records showed DUONG, while on-duty with the Postal Service, drove to his residence at 15103 Southeast Newport Way, Bellevue, Washington. Postal Service records confirmed this address is not on the delivery route DUONG was assigned to. DUONG stayed at this location for approximately 17 minutes; before returning to his place of work; located at 13400 Southeast 30th Street, Bellevue, Washington 98005.
- 13. On January 7, 2020, investigators conducted surveillance on DUONG as he delivered mail. Postal Service records indicated two Express Mail parcels were destined to Duong's delivery route. Both parcels were similar to the parcels described above. With the assistance of covert cameras installed in the delivery vehicle operated by DUONG, investigators observed DUONG bring two Express Mail parcels into his delivery vehicle. At approximately 11:08am, DUONG scanned both parcels as delivered. DUONG was not in the vicinity of the destination addresses when he did so. DUONG then drove, in the Postal Service delivery vehicle, to his residence, at 15103 Southeast Newport Way, Bellevue, Washington. After arriving at the **SUBJECT PREMISES**,

DUONG removed both parcels from the vehicle and walked towards the residence.
When he returned to the vehicle, he did not have the parcels. DUONG departed the
location and resumed delivering mail. When DUONG finished work, he drove his red
Acura directly to his residence. Approximately 15 minutes later, DUONG departed in his
red Acura and drove to 2000 Northeast 16th Street, Renton, Washington.

- 14. Law enforcement records show 2000 Northeast 16th Street, Renton, Washington is owned by TAI LING-CHEN. Law enforcement records showed a TAN VAN NGUYEN as associated with this address.
- 15. According to law enforcement records, NGUYEN is 43 years old. Law enforcement records indicated in 2004, NGUYEN was federally convicted of Conspiracy to Traffic in Marijuana. In 2005, NGUYEN was federally convicted of Conspiracy to Engage in Money Laundering. In 2013, NGUYEN was federally convicted of Conspiracy of Producing Marijuana; Specifically, Indoor Marijuana Cultivation.
- 16. On January 12, 2021, investigators conducted surveillance on DUONG. Postal Service records indicated DUONG handled/scanned two Express Mail parcels similar to those described above. Investigators followed DUONG from his delivery route to his residence at 15103 Southeast Newport Way, Bellevue, Washington. DUONG exited the delivery vehicle with what appeared to be two Express Mail parcels. DUONG appeared to enter the residence with the parcels. A few minutes later, DUONG exited the residence without the parcels, entered the delivery vehicle, and departed.
- 17. On January 15, 2021, Postal Service records indicated an Express Mail parcel similar to those described above was destined to DUONG's delivery route. Using the covert cameras in DUONG's delivery vehicle, investigators observed DUONG scan the parcel, then handle his cell phone. DUONG then removed the label from the Express Mail parcel and placed the parcel in his black backpack. After doing so, DUONG again handled his cell phone. Data from the GPS tracker affixed to DUONG's red Acura indicated DUONG drove directly from work that afternoon to the **SUBJECT PREMISES**.

- That evening, investigators observed DUONG drive his red Acura to the **SUBJECT**
- 21 | PREMISES. DUONG entered and exited the residence carrying what appeared to be a
- 22 | large dark bag or backpack which he placed in the rear of the DUONG's red Acura.
- DUONG then drove back to his residence at 15103 Southeast Newport Way, Bellevue, Washington.
 - 20. On February 26, 2021, Postal Service records indicated two Express Mail parcels, similar to those described above, were destined to DUONG's delivery route. One of these parcels originated in Atlanta, GA, the other in Clarksville, TN. Using the covert cameras in DUONG's delivery vehicle, investigators observed DUONG enter his

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delivery vehicle with two Express Mail parcels which he scanned as delivered. DUONG handled his cell phone, while driving the Postal Service delivery vehicle to his residence at 15103 Southeast Newport Way, Bellevue, Washington. Upon arriving at this residence, DUONG took the two Express Mail parcels from the delivery vehicle and walked towards the residence. When DUONG returned to the delivery vehicle, he did not have the parcels. Data from the GPS tracker affixed to DUONG's red Acura showed DUONG drove home after work. After approximately three hours, DUONG departed his residence in his red Acura and drove directly to the **SUBJECT PREMISES**.

- 21. On March 9, 2021, Postal Service records indicated an Express Mail parcel, similar to those described above, was destined to DUONG's delivery route. Using the covert cameras in DUONG's delivery vehicle, investigators observed DUONG scan the parcel, then place it in his backpack, within the delivery vehicle. DUONG then grabbed his cell phone and exited the vehicle. Using the covert cameras installed in DUONG's delivery vehicle, investigators observed DUONG throughout his shift. The parcel appeared to stay within the black backpack. At the end of his shift, DUONG returned to the Bellevue Carrier Annex and exited the delivery vehicle with his black backpack. Data from the GPS tracker affixed to DUONG's red Acura showed DUONG drove his red Acura directly from work to the **SUBJECT PREMISES**.
- 22. On March 17, 2021, investigators conducted surveillance on DUONG with the assistance of the GPS tracker affixed to DUONG's red Acura. Postal Service records indicated DUONG was receiving four parcels similar to those described above.

 Investigators observed DUONG travel to his residence at 15103 Southeast Newport Way, Bellevue, Washington, while on duty, after collecting these parcels from the Bellevue Carrier Annex. In the evening of March 17, 2021, DUONG drove his red Acura to the SUBJECT PREMISES. DUONG knocked on the door and waited. He then turned and appeared to speak with someone at the door. DUONG then went to DUONG's red Acura and retrieved what appeared to be a white bag with large square objects in it, which he

carried into the residence. DUONG exited the residence shortly after, without the bag or its contents and departed in his red Acura.

- 23. On March 25, 2021, Postal Service records indicated three Express Mail parcels, similar to those described above, were destined to DUONG's delivery route. Using the covert cameras in DUONG's delivery vehicle, investigators observed DUONG drive his delivery vehicle to his residence at 15103 Southeast Newport Way, Bellevue, Washington. Duong appeared to carry multiple Express Mail parcels towards the residence. When DUONG returned to the delivery vehicle, he no longer had the parcels. Investigators observed DUONG use his Postal Service scanner to scan something on his cellular phone, multiple times. DUONG then appeared to input information into the scanner from his cellular phone. These scan times and locations match Postal Service records for scans associated with the three Express Mail parcels destined to DUONG's delivery route. Based on my training and experience, I believe DUONG was scanning images of shipping labels, maintained on his cell phone.
- 24. On March 30, 2021, Postal Service records indicated two Express Mail parcels, similar to those described above, were destined to DUONG's delivery route. Using the covert cameras in DUONG's delivery vehicle, investigators observed DUONG drive his delivery vehicle to his residence at 15103 Southeast Newport Way, Bellevue, Washington. DUONG exited the delivery vehicle and walked towards the residence. After returning to the delivery vehicle, DUONG retrieved his wallet and pulled what appeared to be a credit/debit card from the wallet. DUONG appeared to enter information from the card into his cell phone. DUONG then used the Postal Service scanner to scan something on his cell phone and wrote something on the scanner. Approximately 30 minutes later, DUONG again used the Postal Service scanner to scan something on his cell phone. These scan times and locations match Postal Service records for scans associated with the two Express Mail parcels destined to DUONG's delivery route. Based on my training and experience, I believe DUONG was scanning

registered to TAN VAN NGUYEN at 9406 10th Ave Ct E, Tacoma, Washington. At

Honda Civic arrived. A young Asian male exited the vehicle, walked up to the front

approximately 90 minutes after DUONG departed the SUBJECT PREMISES, a silver

door, and entered the residence. Shortly after, the same Asian male exited the residence

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carrying what appeared to be a weighted brown bag. The Asian male entered the silver
Honda Civic and departed. Investigators followed this vehicle to the area near the
Renton airport before losing visual. Law enforcement records showed this vehicle was
registered to TUNG NGUYEN, at 22000 84th Avenue South, Trailer 22, Kent,
Washington 98032.

- 28. On April 22, 2021, investigators conducted surveillance on multiple locations associated to this investigation, including 15103 Southeast Newport Way, Bellevue, Washington and the **SUBJECT PREMISES**. Postal Service records indicated two parcels associated with this investigation were destined to DUONG's delivery route. Postal Service records indicated DUONG drove his delivery vehicle to his residence at 15103 Southeast Newport Way, Bellevue, Washington at approximately 10:13am. Using the covert cameras in DUONG's delivery vehicle, investigators observed DUONG back the vehicle up to the residence and exit towards the residence. Based on my prior experience and observations in this investigation, I believe DUONG took the two Express Mail parcels from the rear of the delivery vehicle and into the residence.
- 29. At approximately 3:58pm, at 15103 Southeast Newport Way, Bellevue, Washington, investigators observed an Asian male load something into a blue Toyota Prius, bearing Washington license plate BKS7412. Law enforcement records showed this vehicle was registered to DAI TRAN at 15103 Southeast Newport Way, Bellevue, Washington. After loading something into the trunk of the blue Prius, he departed. Based on a review of DAI TRAN's driver license photo, the individual observed appeared to be DAI TRAN.
- 30. At approximately 4:01pm, a white Lexus, bearing Washington license plate BBC3538 pulled into the driveway at the **SUBJECT PREMISES**. Law enforcement records showed this vehicle was registered to QUOC PHAM, at 11827 Southeast 189th Place, Renton, Washington. An Asian male exited the vehicle and carried a box to the front door of the **SUBJECT PREMISES**. He waited for the door to be answered before

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- Shortly after the blue Prius departed, the garage door to the **SUBJECT PREMISES** opened and investigators observed an Asian male, an Asian female, and a small child outside the **SUBJECT PREMISES**. Based on a review of driver license photos, the Asian male is believed to be TAN VAN NGUYEN. The Asian female is believed to be TIEN HOANG THAO LE. Two vehicles were parked in the garage. A Silver Acura MDX, bearing Washington license plate AWW1456, and a black Mercedes, bearing Washington license plate BLV5332. Law enforcement records showed the silver Acura was registered to TIEN LE, at 12256 1st Avenue Southwest, Seattle, Washington. Law enforcement records showed the black Mercedes was registered to TAN VAN NGUYEN, at 9406 10th Avenue Court East, Tacoma, Washington. Investigators also observed a blue Chevy Avalanche parked along the sidewalk in front of the **SUBJECT PREMISES.** Law enforcement records showed the blue Avalanche was registered to TAN VAN NGUYEN, at 9406 10th Avenue Court East, Tacoma, Washington. LE and NGUYEN appeared to have access and control of the SUBJECT PREMISES. Investigators observed LE, NGUYEN, and the child enter the SUBJECT PREMISES through the open garage. Shortly after, the silver Acura departed and the garage door closed.
- 33. At approximately 5:40pm, DUONG arrived at 15103 Southeast Newport Way, Bellevue, Washington, in his red Acura. At approximately 7:50pm, investigators observed DUONG exit the residence and load what appeared to be a large full black

garbage bag and two boxes, which appeared to be Postal Service boxes, into the rear of his red Acura. DAI TRAN brought DUONG a third box from within the residence, which DUONG placed inside the rear of the red Acura; before he departed. Investigators followed DUONG to a residence located at 2822 South 376th Place, Federal Way, Washington. DUONG backed up to the residence and appeared to unload items from the rear of DUONG's red Acura. After leaving this location, DUONG made a stop in Seattle, Washington, before traveling to the **SUBJECT PREMISES**.

TACTICS USED BY DRUG TRAFFICKERS

- 34. Based on my training and experience, and conversations with other experienced law enforcement agents and officers who have been involved in narcotics cases, I know the following.
- 35. The distribution of illegal narcotics is frequently a continuing activity lasting over months and years. Persons involved in the trafficking of illegal controlled substances typically will obtain and distribute controlled substances on a regular basis, much as a distributor of a legal commodity would purchase stock for sale. Similarly, such drug traffickers will maintain an "inventory" which will fluctuate in size depending upon the demand for and the available supply of the product. Drug traffickers often keep records of their illegal activities not only during the period of their drug trafficking violations but also for a period of time extending beyond the time during which the trafficker actually possesses/controls illegal controlled substances. The records are kept in order to maintain contact with criminal associates for future transactions and so that the trafficker can have records of prior transactions for which the trafficker might still be owed money or might owe someone else money. Dealers often keep these records in their homes and in vehicles that they own, use, or have access to.
- 36. It is common for drug traffickers to conceal large quantities of U.S. currency, foreign currency, cryptocurrency, financial instruments, precious metals, jewelry, and other items of value that are proceeds from drug trafficking in their residences and in other storage areas associated with the residence, such as on-site

storage lockers, garages, detached storage sheds, and parking stalls, or safes located on the property.

- 37. Evidence of excessive wealth beyond an individual's outward means is probative evidence of the distribution of controlled substances. Therefore, receipts showing the expenditure of large sums of money and/or the expensive assets can be evidence of drug trafficking. Drug traffickers commonly keep the expensive assets themselves and/or documentation of the purchase of the asset (receipts, warranty cards, etc.) in their homes, places of business, and in vehicles that they own, use, or have access to.
- 38. It is common for drug traffickers to maintain equipment and supplies (such as scales, packaging, and masking agents) on hand over a long period, even when they do not have any controlled substances on hand. The aforementioned items are frequently maintained in the drug trafficker's homes, places of business, stash houses, or storage units, and in vehicles that they own, use, or have access to.
- 39. Drug traffickers often have some amount of inventory—namely, illegal drugs—stored in their homes, places of business, stash houses or storage units, and in vehicles that they own, use, or have access to.
- 40. It is common for drug traffickers to possess firearms and ammunition to protect their drugs, assets, and persons from hostile gangs, rival traffickers, other criminals, and from law enforcement. Persons who purchase and possess firearms also tend to maintain the firearms and ammunition for lengthy periods of time. Firearms can be acquired both legally and unlawfully, without official/traceable documentation. Persons who acquire firearms from Federal Firearms Licensees, through deliberate fraud and concealment, often will also acquire firearms from private parties and other sources unknown to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives ("ATF"). Persons who, whether legally or illegally, purchase, possess, sell and/or transfer firearms or ammunition commonly maintain the firearms or ammunition on their person, at their residence or business, or in a motor vehicle which they own and/or operate. Firearms or

ammunition are often secreted at other locations within their residential curtilage, and the identification of these firearms will assist in establishing their origin. Persons who purchase, possess, sell and/or trade firearms or ammunition commonly maintain documents and items that are related to the purchase, ownership, possession, sale and/or transfer of firearms, ammunition, and/or firearm parts, including but not limited to driver's licenses, telephone records, telephone bills, address and telephone books, canceled checks, receipts, bank records and other financial documentation on the owner's person, at the owner's residence or business, or in vehicles that they own, use, or have access to. Additionally, these individuals often maintain holsters, spare magazines or speed loaders and other instruments to facilitate the use of firearms in furtherance of criminal activity or acts of violence.

- 41. It is common for members of drug trafficking organizations, in an attempt to disguise their identities and illegal activities, to use prepaid cellular telephones and prepaid long-distance calling cards. Often the only way to connect a subject with a particular prepaid cellular telephone or calling card is to seize the phone or calling card from the trafficker or his residence. The aforementioned items are frequently maintained in the drug trafficker's residence, place of business, or other areas they have access to.
- 42. Drug traffickers often carry many of the items described above—including (but not limited to) drugs, drug proceeds, firearms, cellular phones—on their person.
- 43. Drug dealers regularly use cell phones and other electronic communication devices to further their illegal activities. As a result, evidence of drug dealing can often be found in text messages, address books, call logs, photographs, emails, text messaging or picture messaging applications, videos, and other data that is stored on cell phones and other electronic communication devices. Additionally, the storage capacity of such devices allows them to be used for the electronic maintenance of ledgers, pay/owe logs, drug weights and amounts, customers contact information, not only during the period of their drug trafficking violations but also for a period of time extending beyond the time during which the trafficker actually possesses/controls illegal controlled substances. The

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records are kept in order to maintain contact with criminal associates for future transactions and so that the trafficker can have records of prior transactions for which the trafficker might still be owed money or might owe someone else money.

44. Drug traffickers increasingly use applications on smartphones that encrypt communications such as WhatsApp, or applications that automatically delete messages, such as Snapchat, in order to avoid law enforcement monitoring or recording of communications regarding drug trafficking and/or money laundering. Evidence of the use of such applications can be obtained from smartphones and is evidence of a smartphone user's efforts to avoid law enforcement detection.

SEARCH AND SEIZURE OF DIGITAL MEDIA

- 45. As described above and in Attachment B, this application seeks permission to search for items listed in Attachment B that might be found in **SUBJECT PREMISES**, including digital devices.
- 46. In order to examine digital media in a forensically sound manner, law enforcement personnel, with appropriate expertise, will conduct a forensic review of any digital media seized. The purpose of using specially trained computer forensic examiners to conduct the imaging of any digital media or digital devices is to ensure the integrity of the evidence and to follow proper, forensically sound, scientific procedures. When the investigative agent is a trained computer forensic examiner, it is not always necessary to separate these duties. Computer forensic examiners and investigators often work closely with investigative personnel to assist investigators in their search for digital evidence. Computer forensic examiners are needed because they generally have technological expertise that investigative agents do not possess. Computer forensic examiners, however, may lack the factual and investigative expertise that an investigate agent may possess. Therefore, computer forensic examiners and agents often work closely together. It is intended that the warrant will provide authority for the affiant to forensically review, or seek the assistance of others in the HSI or within other law enforcement agencies to assist in the forensic review of any digital devices.

47. I also know the following:

- a. Based my knowledge, training, and experience, I know that computer files or remnants of such files may be recovered months or even years after they have been downloaded onto a storage medium, deleted, or viewed via the Internet. Electronic files downloaded to a storage medium can be stored for years at little or no cost. Even when files have been deleted, this information can sometimes be recovered months or years later with forensics tools. This is because when a person "deletes" a file on a computer, the data contained in the files does not actually disappear; rather, that data remains on the storage medium until it is overwritten by new data.
- b. Therefore, deleted files, or remnants of deleted files, may reside in free space or slack space—that is, in space on the storage medium that is not currently being used by an active file—for long periods of time before they are overwritten. In addition, a computer's operating system may also keep a record of deleted data in "swap" or "recovery" files.
- c. Wholly apart from user-generated files, computer storage media—in particular, computers' internal hard drives—contain electronic evidence of how a computer has been used, what it has been used for, and who has used it. To give a few examples, this forensic evidence can take the form of operating system configurations, artifacts from operating system or application operation, file system data structures, and virtual memory "swap" paging files. Computer users typically do not erase or delete this evidence, because special software is typically required for that task. However, it is technically possible to delete this information.
- d. Similarly, files that have been viewed via the Internet are sometimes automatically downloaded into a temporary Internet directory or "cache."
- e. Digital storage devices may also be large in capacity, but small in physical size. Those who are in possession of such devices also tend to keep them on their persons, especially when they may contain evidence of a crime. Digital storage

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devices may be smaller than a postal stamp in size, and thus they may easily be hidden in a person's pocket.

- f. As further described in Attachment B, this application seeks permission to locate not only computer files that might serve as direct evidence of the crimes described on the warrant, but also for forensic electronic evidence that establishes how computers were used, the purpose of their use, who used them, and when. There is probable cause to believe that this forensic electronic evidence will be on digital devices found in the SUBJECT PREMISES because:
- Data on the digital storage medium or digital devices can provide g. evidence of a file that was once on the digital storage medium or digital devices but has since been deleted or edited, or of a deleted portion of a file (such as a paragraph that has been deleted from a word processing file). Virtual memory paging systems can leave traces of information on the storage medium that show what tasks and processes were recently active. Web browsers, e-mail programs, and chat programs store configuration information on the storage medium that can reveal information such as online nicknames and passwords. Operating systems can record additional information, such as the attachment of peripherals, the attachment of USB flash storage devices or other external storage media, and the times the computer was in use. Computer file systems can record information about the dates files were created and the sequence in which they were created, although this information can later be falsified.
- As explained herein, information stored within a computer and other h. electronic storage media may provide crucial evidence of the "who, what, why, when, where, and how" of the criminal conduct under investigation, thus enabling the United States to further establish and prove each element or alternatively, to exclude the innocent from further suspicion. In my training and experience, information stored within a computer or storage media (e.g., registry information, communications, images and movies, transactional information, records of session times and durations, Internet history, and anti-virus, spyware, and malware detection programs) can indicate who has

used or controlled the computer or storage media. This "user attribution" evidence is analogous to the search of "indicia of occupancy" while executing a search warrant at a residence. The existence or absence of anti-virus, spyware, and malware detection programs may indicate whether the computer was remotely accessed, thus inculpating or exculpating the computer owner. Further computer and storage media activity can indicate how and when the computer or storage media was accessed or used. For example, as described herein, computers typically contain information that log computer activity associated with user accounts and electronic storage media connected with the computer. Such information allows investigators to understand the chronological context of computer or electronic storage media access, use, and events relating to the crime under investigation. Additionally, some information stored within a computer or electronic storage media may provide crucial evidence relating to the physical location of other evidence and the suspect. For example, images stored on a computer may both show a particular location and have geolocation information incorporated into its file data. Such file data typically also contains information indicating when the file or image was created. The existence of such image files, along with external device connection logs, may also indicate the presence of additional electronic storage media (e.g., a digital camera or cellular phone with an incorporated camera). The geographic and timeline information described herein may either inculpate or exculpate the computer user. Lastly, information stored within a computer may provide relevant insight into the computer user's state of mind as it relates to the offense under investigation. For example, information within the computer may indicate the owner's motive and intent to commit the crime (e.g., Internet searches indicating criminal planning), or consciousness of guilt (e.g., running a "wiping" program to destroy evidence on the computer or password protecting/encrypting such evidence in an effort to conceal it from law enforcement).

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- i. A person with appropriate familiarity with how a computer works can, after examining this forensic evidence in its proper content, draw conclusions about how computers were used, the purpose of their use, who used them, and when.
- j. The process of identifying the exact files, blocks, registry entries, logs, or other forms of forensic evidence on a storage medium that are necessary to draw an accurate conclusion is a dynamic process. While it is possible to specify in advance the records to be sought, computer evidence is not always data that can be merely reviewed by a review team and passed along to investigators. Whether data stored on a computer is evidence may depend on other information stored on the computer and the application of knowledge about how a computer behaves. Therefore, contextual information necessary to understand other evidence also falls within the scope of the warrant.
- k. Further, in finding evidence of how a computer was used, the purpose of its use, who used it, and when, sometimes it is necessary to establish that a particular thing is not present on a storage medium. For example, the presence or absence of counter-forensic programs or anti-virus programs (and associated data) may be relevant to establishing a user's intent.
- 1. In most cases, a thorough search of a premises for information that might be stored on digital storage media or other digital devices often requires the seizure of the digital devices and digital storage media for later off-site review consistent with the warrant. In lieu of removing storage media from the premises, it is sometimes possible to make an image copy of storage media. Generally speaking, imaging is the taking of a complete electronic copy of the digital media's data, including all hidden sectors and deleted files. Either seizure or imaging is often necessary to ensure the accuracy and completeness of data recorded on the storage media, and to prevent the loss of the data either from accidental or intentional destruction. This is true because of the following:
- m. The time required for an examination. As noted above, not all evidence takes the form of documents and files that can be easily viewed on site.

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- n. Technical requirements. Computers can be configured in several different ways, featuring a variety of different operating systems, application software, and configurations. Therefore, searching them sometimes requires tools or knowledge that might not be present on the search site. The vast array of computer hardware and software available makes it difficult to know before a search what tools or knowledge will be required to analyze the system and its data on-site. However, taking the storage media off-site and reviewing it in a controlled environment will allow its examination with the proper tools and knowledge.
- o. Variety of forms of electronic media. Records sought under this warrant could be stored in a variety of storage media formats that may require off-site reviewing with specialized forensic tools.
- 48. Searching computer systems is a highly technical process that requires specific expertise and specialized equipment. There are so many types of computer hardware and software in use today that it is rarely possible to bring to the search site all the necessary technical manuals and specialized equipment necessary to consult with computer personnel who have expertise in the type of computer, operating system, or software application being searched.
- 49. The analysis of computer systems and storage media often relies on rigorous procedures designed to maintain the integrity of the evidence and to recover "hidden," mislabeled, deceptively named, erased, compressed, encrypted or password-

protected data, while reducing the likelihood of inadvertent or intentional loss or modification of data. A controlled environment such as a laboratory, is typically required to conduct such an analysis properly.

- 50. The volume of data stored on many computer systems and storage devices will typically be so large that it will be highly impracticable to search for data during the execution of the physical search of the premises. The hard drives commonly included in desktop and laptop computers are capable of storing millions of pages of text.
- 51. A search of digital devices for evidence described in Attachment B may require a range of data analysis techniques. In some cases, agents may recover evidence with carefully targeted searches to locate evidence without requirement of a manual search through unrelated materials that may be commingled with criminal evidence. Agents may be able to execute a "keyword" search that searches through the files stored in a digital device for special terms that appear only in the materials covered by the warrant. Or, agents may be able to locate the materials covered by looking for a particular directory or name. However, in other cases, such techniques may not yield the evidence described in the warrant. Individuals may mislabel or hide files and directories; encode communications to avoid using keywords; attempt to delete files to evade detection; or take other steps designed to hide information from law enforcement searches for information.
- 52. The search procedure of any digital device seized may include the following on-site techniques to seize the evidence authorized in Attachment B:
- a. On-site triage of computer systems to determine what, if any, peripheral devices or digital storage units have been connected to such computer systems, a preliminary scan of images files contained on such systems and digital storage devices to help identify any other relevant evidence or co-conspirators.
- b. On-site copying and analysis of volatile memory, which is usually lost if a computer is powered down and may contain information about how the computer

1	is being used, by whom, when and may contain information about encryption, virtual
2	machines, or stenography which will be lost if the computer is powered down.
3	c. On-site forensic imaging of any computers may be necessary for
4	computers or devices that may be partially or fully encrypted in order to preserve
5	unencrypted data that may, if not immediately imaged on-scene become encrypted and
6	accordingly become unavailable for any examination.
7	CONCLUSION
8	53. Based on the information set forth herein, there is probable cause to search
9	the above-described SUBJECT PREMISES, as further described in Attachment A, for
10	evidence, fruits, and instrumentalities, as further described in Attachment B, of crimes
11	committed by the individual listed in this affidavit and their coconspirators, specifically
12	distribution of, and possession of, with intent to distribute, controlled substances, in
13	violation of Title 21, United States Code, Section 841(a)(1).
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16	CASEY J. SNYDER
17	Special Agent
18	USPS OIG
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20	The above-named agent provided a sworn statement to the truth of the foregoing
21	affidavit by telephone on the 26th day of May, 2021.
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24	BRIAN A. TSUCHIDA
25	United States Magistrate Judge
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ATTACHMENT A

Place to Be Searched (SUBJECT PREMISES)

The place to be searched is 2000 Northeast 16th Street, Renton, Washington 98056, a two-story structure located on the north side of Northeast 16th Street and is a corner house. The exterior is a mix of light green/tan siding and rock, with tan trim. The entry door is located to the left of the garage. The numbers "2000" are located to the right side of the garage door.

The search is to include all storage areas associated within the premises, such as on-site storage lockers, detached storage sheds, and parking stalls, or safes; and any digital device(s) or other electronic storage media.



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ATTACHMENT B

List of Items to Be Seized

Evidence, fruits, and instrumentalities of violations of 21 U.S.C. § 841(a)(1) (Distribution of and Possession with Intent to Distribute Controlled Substances), involving TRI DUONG, as follows:

- 1. Controlled Substances: Including but not limited to methamphetamine, fentanyl, cocaine, crack cocaine, heroin, hashish, marijuana, MDMA, methadone, oxycodone, Oxycontin, Suboxone, Clonazepam, Alprazolam, Xanax, and Adderall;
- 2. Drug Paraphernalia: Items used, or to be used, to store, process, package, use, and/or distribute controlled substances, such as plastic bags, DVD cases, cutting agents, scales, measuring equipment, vials, pill presses, Mylar bags, heat/vacuum sealers, tape, duffel bags, chemicals or items used to test the purity and/or quality of controlled substances, and similar items;
- 3. Drug Transaction Records: Documents such as ledgers, receipts, notes, and similar items relating to the acquisition, transportation, and distribution of controlled substances;
- 4. Customer and Supplier Information: Items identifying drug customers and drug suppliers, such as telephone records, personal address books, correspondence, diaries, calendars, notes with phone numbers and names, "pay/owe" sheets with drug amounts and prices, maps or directions, and similar items;
- 5. Cash and Financial Records: Currency and financial records, including bank records, safe deposit box records and keys, credit card records, bills, receipts, tax returns, vehicle documents, and similar items; and other records that show income and expenditures, net worth, money transfers, wire transmittals, negotiable instruments, bank drafts, cashier's checks, and similar items, and money counters;
- 6. Photographs/Surveillance: Photographs, video tapes, digital cameras, surveillance cameras and associated hardware/storage devices, and similar items, depicting property occupants, friends and relatives of the property occupants, or suspected buyers or sellers of controlled substances, controlled substances or other contraband, weapons, and assets derived from the distribution of controlled substances;
- 7. Weapons: Including but not limited to firearms, magazines, ammunition, and body armor;

- 8. Codes: Evidence of codes used in the distribution of controlled substances, including passwords, code books, cypher or decryption keys, usernames and/or credentials for dark web marketplaces, and similar information;
- 9. Property Records: Deeds, contracts, escrow documents, mortgage documents, rental documents, and other evidence relating to the purchase, ownership, rental, income, expenses, or control of the premises, and similar records of other property owned or rented;
- 10. Indicia of occupancy, residency, and/or ownership of assets including, utility and telephone bills, canceled envelopes, rental records or payment receipts, leases, mortgage statements, and other documents;
- 11. Evidence of Storage Unit Rental or Access: Rental and payment records, keys and codes, pamphlets, contracts, contact information, directions, passwords or other documents relating to storage units;
- 12. Evidence of Personal Property Ownership: Registration information, ownership documents, or other evidence of ownership of property including, but not limited to vehicles, vessels, boats, airplanes, jet skis, all-terrain vehicles, RVs, and personal property; evidence of international or domestic travel, hotel/motel stays, and any other evidence of unexplained wealth;
- 13. Individual and business financial books, records, receipts, notes, ledgers, diaries, journals, and all records relating to income, profit, expenditures, or losses, such as:
- a. Employment records: paychecks or stubs, lists and accounts of employee payrolls, records of employment tax withholdings and contributions, dividends, stock certificates, and compensation to officers.
- b. Savings accounts: statements, ledger cards, deposit tickets, register records, wire transfer records, correspondence, and withdrawal slips.
- c. Checking accounts: statements, canceled checks, deposit tickets, credit/debit documents, wire transfer documents, correspondence, and register records.
- d. Loan Accounts: financial statements and loan applications for all loans applied for, notes, loan repayment records, and mortgage loan records.
 - e. Collection accounts: statements and other records.

conspirators for the delivery or purchase of controlled substances or laundering of drug proceeds;

- 20. Safes and locked storage containers, and the contents thereof which are otherwise described in this document;
- 21. Tools: Tools that may be used to open hidden compartments in vehicles, paint, bonding agents, magnets, or other items that may be used to open/close said compartments;
- 22. Any and all mailing documents and packaging materials related to U.S. Postal Service, UPS, and FedEx, including but not limited to USPS Express Mail labels, express mail and priority envelopes, first class mailings, receipts for USPS packages, and tracking information;
- 23. Any records or information pertaining to the dark web and dark web marketplaces, including the Empire Market, Deep Sea Market, and White House Market;
 - 24. Any records or information pertaining to darknet monikers;
- 25. Cryptocurrency applications and wallets, including information regarding current account balance and transaction history, i.e., date, time, amount, an address of the sender/recipient of a cryptocurrency transaction maintained in such wallets;
- 26. Any records or information reflecting cryptocurrencies, including web history, and documents showing the location, source, and timing of acquisition of any cryptocurrencies, including wallets, wallet addresses, and seed phrases;
- 27. Any and all cryptocurrency, to include the following: (a) any and all representations of cryptocurrency public keys or addresses, whether in electronic or physical format; (b) any and all representations of cryptocurrency private keys, whether in electronic or physical format; and (c) any and all representations of cryptocurrency wallets or their constitutive parts, whether in electronic or physical format, to include "recovery seeds" and "root keys" which may be used to regenerate a wallet.
- a. The United States is authorized to seize any and all cryptocurrency by transferring the full account balance in each wallet to a public cryptocurrency address controlled by the United States.

1	m. Any records or information reflecting cryptocurrencies, including web history, and documents showing the location, source, and timing of acquisition of
2 3	any cryptocurrencies, to include wallets, wallet addresses, and seed phrases; and
4	n. Any records or information pertaining to PGP applications, to include private and/or public keys.
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6	THE SEIZURE OF DIGITAL DEVICES IS AUTHORIZED FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONDUCTING OFF-SITE EXAMINATION OF THEIR CONTENTS FOR
7	EVIDENCE, INSTRUMENTALITIES, OR FRUITS OF THE AFOREMENTIONED CRIMES.
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